

H.R. 5323 recognizes those immigrants who have played by the rules and been through this country's rigorous immigration screening process. Legal immigrants have earned their citizenship after years of waiting, high fees, learning English, and a passing grade on a citizenship test. The culmination of this all is taking the Oath of Citizenship.

Every year in my district around the 4th of July, I host a Citizenship Ceremony. This past year, 120 immigrants from China, Fiji Island, Algeria, Canada and other countries took their Oath, and sang our National Anthem and America the Beautiful in a community wide celebration.

Just this month, CIS and the Department of the Interior's National Park Service announced a partnership to welcome new citizens to the U.S. via national parks. In the last week, citizenship ceremonies have been held at Ellis Island National Park in New York to Yosemite National Park in California.

All of us can look back to our own families and find the first generation immigrants. Let us welcome new citizens as we would have wanted our ancestors to be welcomed.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5323, the "Proud to be an American Citizen Act," which requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to make funds available to support public naturalization ceremonies that are held on a date that is on or near Independence Day. These funds would be given to the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) or to public or private nonprofit entities. The Secretary would select the sites for the ceremonies, approve the entities receiving the funds, and dispense up to, but no more than, \$5,000 for each ceremony.

The use of the funds would be limited to the costs of personnel from USCIS and the Federal judiciary, including travel and overtime expenses; site and audio equipment rentals; logistical requirements; and costs for printing brochures about the naturalization participants and the naturalization process.

Naturalization rewards legal immigrants who have played by the rules and abided by all United States laws and USCIS regulations. The naturalization ceremony is not just a formality. Taking the Oath of Allegiance is a critical legal step in becoming a naturalized citizen. The words of the Oath of Allegiance convey the core meaning of becoming an American citizen. These words reflect the shared American values of liberty, democracy, and equal opportunity; and the obligation to abide by the Constitution, including the Bill of Rights.

The Oath of Allegiance should not be taken in an empty room without fanfare, particularly on Independence Day. I urge all members to show their support for those who are proud to become American citizens by voting for H.R. 5323.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I return the balance of my time.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I do the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5323, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1700

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION MODERNIZATION ACT

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to bill (H.R. 2066) to amend title 40, United States Code, to establish a Federal Acquisition Service, to replace the General Supply Fund and the Information Technology Fund with an Acquisition Services Fund, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendments:

Page 2, line 25, strike out "up to five"

Page 10, line 7, strike out "or" and all that follows through the end of line 9, and insert:

"(B) the exceptional difficulty in recruiting or retaining a qualified employee, or

"(C) a temporary emergency hiring need,

Page 10, line 20, strike out "December 31, 2011." and insert: "December 31, 2011."

Page 10, strike out line 21 and all that follows through page 13, line 8, and insert the following new section and renumber subsequent section:

SEC. 5. DISPOSAL OF FEDERAL SURPLUS PROPERTY TO HISTORIC LIGHT STATIONS.

Section 549(c)(3)(B) of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in clause (vii), by striking "or" after the semicolon;

(2) in clause (viii), by striking the period and inserting "; or"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(iz) a historic light station as defined under section 308(e)(2) of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470w-7(e)(2)), including a historic light station conveyed under subsection (b) of that section, notwithstanding the number of hours that the historic light station is open to the public."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2066, the General Services Administration Modernization Act, which was introduced by Armed Services Committee Chairman HUNTER and myself last year. This legislation passed the House last May and was recently passed by the Senate with a handful of modifications which we are here today to accept in order to send the legisla-

tion to the President's desk for signature.

This important legislation would authorize a much-needed reorganization and streamlining of the General Services Administration, the Federal agency that is charged with leveraging the Federal Government's buying power to purchase commercial goods and services in a manner that maximizes taxpayer dollars.

Each year, GSA buys products and services from the private sector worth well over \$30 billion and resells them to Federal agencies through two different services. The Federal Technology Service, or FTS, uses the Information Technology Fund purchase information technology; and the Federal Supply Service, the FSS, uses the General Supply Fund to purchase commercial goods and services.

This bifurcated system may have made sense when the IT fund was created two decades ago when information technology was in its infancy. Today, however, laptop computers, cell phones and e-mail are as ubiquitous as desks and phones. The business case, for separate systems to handle IT goods and services, no longer exists. In fact, the bifurcated system has become a barrier to coordinated acquisition of management services and the technology needed to support a total solution.

H.R. 2066 would amend GSA's organic stature by enacting structural reform to GSA's current organization in order to consolidate the Federal Supply Service and the Federal Technology Service into a single entity operating out of a unified fund, providing Federal agencies with a one-stop shop to acquire all of their commercial goods and services. This change in statute would provide GSA with the structure it needs to bring it in line with the current commercial marketplace.

The environment in which the Federal Government purchases goods and services has changed dramatically in recent years. H.R. 2066 would remove the old structures that inhibit efficient Federal purchases and solutions that are a mix of products, services and technology. The Federal marketplace should reflect the best of the commercial marketplace, both in the products and service we buy and the way that we buy them.

I would urge my colleagues to accept these amendments and support H.R. 2066.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The chairman of the committee, the Government Reform committee, Mr. DAVIS, has covered the bill well. I commend him for his work on this piece of legislation.

I would only add to his description of the bill that it also contains provisions that would give civilian agencies additional tools to maintain their acquisition workforces by allowing agencies

to reemploy retirees under certain circumstances. I think it is important that we look for ways in the Federal Government to continue to use the expertise of those who have been in the Federal Government.

The Senate amendments to the bill provide additional protections to make sure that authority is used wisely with respect to rehiring of retirees, but I commend the chairman of the committee for his work on this bill and urge its adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Let me thank my colleague from Maryland for his assistance on this and so many other things that the committee works on. I would urge all members to support the passage of H.R. 2066.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 2066.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendments were concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

2005 DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OMNIBUS AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 3508) to authorize improvements in the operation of the government of the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “2005 District of Columbia Omnibus Authorization Act”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—GOVERNANCE OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Subtitle A—General District of Columbia Governance

Sec. 101. Budget flexibility.

Sec. 102. Additional Authority to allocate amounts in Reserve Funds.

Sec. 103. Permitting General Services Administration to obtain space and services on behalf of District of Columbia Public Defender Service.

Sec. 104. Authority to enter into Interstate Insurance Product Regulation Compact.

Sec. 105. Metered taxicabs in the District of Columbia.

Subtitle B—District of Columbia Courts

Sec. 111. Modernization of Office of Register of Wills.

Sec. 112. Increase in cap on rates of pay for nonjudicial employees.

Sec. 113. Clarification of rate for individuals providing services to indigent defendants.

Sec. 114. Authority of Courts to conduct proceedings outside of District of Columbia during emergencies.

Sec. 115. Authority of Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency to use services of volunteers.

Sec. 116. Technical corrections relating to courts.

Sec. 117. Inclusion of court employees in enhanced dental and vision benefit program.

Subtitle C—Other Miscellaneous Technical Corrections

Sec. 121. 2004 District of Columbia Omnibus Authorization Act.

Sec. 122. District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2005.

Sec. 123. Technical and conforming amendments relating to banks operating under the Code of Law for the District of Columbia.

Sec. 124. District of Columbia Schools fiscal year.

Sec. 125. Gifts to libraries.

TITLE II—INDEPENDENCE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Sec. 201. Promoting independence of Chief Financial Officer.

Sec. 202. Personnel Authority.

Sec. 203. Procurement Authority.

Sec. 204. Fiscal impact statements.

TITLE III—AUTHORIZATION OF CERTAIN GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS PROVISIONS

Sec. 301. Acceptance of gifts by Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency.

Sec. 302. Evaluation process for public school employees.

Sec. 303. Clarification of application of pay provisions of Merit Personnel System to all District employees.

Sec. 304. Criteria for renewing or extending sole source contracts.

Sec. 305. Acceptance of grant amounts not included in annual budget.

Sec. 306. Standards for annual independent audit.

Sec. 307. Use of fines imposed for violation of traffic alcohol laws for enforcement and prosecution of laws.

Sec. 308. Certifications for attorneys in cases brought under Individuals With Disabilities Education Act.

TITLE I—GOVERNANCE OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Subtitle A—General District of Columbia Governance

SEC. 101. BUDGET FLEXIBILITY.

(a) **PERMITTING INCREASE IN AMOUNT APPROPRIATED AS LOCAL FUNDS DURING A FISCAL YEAR.**—Subpart 1 of part D of title IV of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act (sec. 1–204.41 et seq., D.C. Official Code) is amended by inserting after section 446 the following new section:

“PERMITTING INCREASE IN AMOUNT APPROPRIATED AS LOCAL FUNDS DURING A FISCAL YEAR

“SEC. 446A. (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding the fourth sentence of section 446, to account for an unanticipated growth of revenue collections, the amount appropriated as District of Columbia funds under budget approved by Act of Congress as provided in such section may be increased—

“(1) by an aggregate amount of not more than 25 percent, in the case of amounts allocated under the budget as ‘Other-Type Funds’; and

“(2) by an aggregate amount of not more than 6 percent, in the case of any other amounts allocated under the budget.

“(b) **CONDITIONS.**—The District of Columbia may obligate and expend any increase in the amount of funds authorized under this section only in accordance with the following conditions:

“(1) The Chief Financial Officer of the District of Columbia shall certify—

“(A) the increase in revenue; and

“(B) that the use of the amounts is not anticipated to have a negative impact on the long-term financial, fiscal, or economic health of the District.

“(2) The amounts shall be obligated and expended in accordance with laws enacted by the Council of the District of Columbia in support of each such obligation and expenditure, consistent with any other requirements under law.

“(3) The amounts may not be used to fund any agencies of the District government operating under court-ordered receivership.

“(4) The amounts may not be obligated or expended unless the Mayor has notified the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate, the Committee on Government Reform of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate not fewer than 30 days in advance of the obligation or expenditure.

“(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This section shall apply with respect to fiscal years 2006 through 2007.”.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The fourth sentence of section 446 of such Act (sec. 1–204.46, D.C. Official Code) is amended by inserting “section 446A,” after “section 445A(b).”.

(c) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents of such Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 446 the following new item:

“Sec. 446A. Permitting increase in amount appropriated as local funds during a fiscal year.”.

SEC. 102. ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY TO ALLOCATE AMOUNTS IN RESERVE FUNDS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 450A of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act (sec. 1–204.50A, D.C. Official Code) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection:

“(c) **ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY TO ALLOCATE AMOUNTS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, in addition to the authority provided under this section to allocate and use amounts from the emergency reserve fund under subsection (a) and the contingency reserve fund under subsection (b), the District of Columbia may allocate amounts from such funds during a fiscal year and use such amounts for cash flow management purposes.

“(2) **LIMITS ON AMOUNT ALLOCATED.**—

“(A) **AMOUNT OF INDIVIDUAL ALLOCATION.**—The amount of an allocation made from the emergency reserve fund or the contingency reserve fund pursuant to the authority of this subsection may not exceed 50 percent of the balance of the fund involved at the time the allocation is made.

“(B) **AGGREGATE AMOUNT ALLOCATED.**—The aggregate amount allocated from the emergency reserve fund or the contingency reserve fund pursuant to the authority of this subsection during a fiscal year may not exceed 50 percent of the balance of the fund involved as of the first day of such fiscal year.

“(3) **REPLENISHMENT.**—If the District of Columbia allocates any amounts from a reserve fund pursuant to the authority of this subsection during a fiscal year, the District shall fully replenish the fund for the amounts allocated not later than the earlier of—

“(A) the expiration of the 9-month period which begins on the date the allocation is made; or

“(B) the last day of the fiscal year.

“(4) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This subsection shall apply with respect to fiscal years 2006 through 2007.”.

(b) **SPECIAL RULE FOR TIMING OF REPLENISHMENT AFTER SUBSEQUENT ALLOCATION.**—